

HISTORY OF MY FATHER, ROBERT BOOTH MONTGOMERY. WRITTEN AND ENTERED BY HIS
DAUGHTER: Ruby Montgomery Provost. Written April 10, 1959.

I cannot hope to do you justice,
In this narrative I write.
How you smiled through all your troubles,
And put up a noble fight.
"How's she going," asked a neighbor
As he passed you on the way.
"Never better", you would answer,
"Isn't it a lovely day?"

Rugged as the hills around you,
You met life without a flinch.
Trails and hardships you took standing,
Never backing up an inch.
Life for you was long and active,
Illness gave a five year test.
You endured till life was over,
Then like an Eagle, soared to rest.

My father, Robert Booth Montgomery, was born 13 September 1854 at Cregmark, Ayrshire County, Scotland. He was the son of Robert and Mary Loury Montgomery. He was the fourth child in a family of seven children. As a child of seven, he immigrated to America with his mother, sisters, and brother. They sailed on a Wednesday, approximately August 14, 1862 from Liverpool, England on the ship William Topscot, with eight hundred and eight saints. They were under the direction of William Gibson, John Clark and Francis M. Lyman. As fellow passengers on board were friends from Scotland, William and Robert Lindsay, John M. Murdock and family. After six weeks on the water, they arrived safely at New York. Then began their long hard journey across the plains by ox team with the Captain Duncan Company. My father walked all the way. They arrived at Kansas City and there they awaited the arrival of their husband and father, Robert Sr. He with his friend Jimmy Laird, had come to Utah in 1861 and had located at Heber City, Utah. He had built a log house with dirt floors and roof, ready to receive his loved ones. Food had been scarce, the winter's severe and cold, and the effects of working many years in the coal mines in Scotland began to tell on him. His health broke, so when the time came for him to meet his family, he was too ill to go. So, he sent his friend Jimmy Laird in his place.

One night while his wife Mary was asleep, she awakened to hear a clear Scotch voice calling, "is Mary Montgomery aboard. She was disappointed, but courage was common in that persevering band. They made their way to Utah. Grandfather was overjoyed at seeing his family. Within six months, he developed pneumonia and died, 10 January, 1863. The snow was about three feet deep when they buried him in the Heber Cemetery.

Having been a good carpenter, he owned a very good set of carpenter tools. Grandmother had to sell them for money to live on. She traded a valuable Scotch Paisley Shawl for a cow so the children could have milk.

My father was then but eight years of age. He was hired out to work for Bishop Hunter. He worked for several years, turning the money over to his mother to help with the living. When he was twelve years old, he and his brother Livingston, age eight, hauled wood from the canyons for fuel. When he was seventeen, he was a blacksmith in the mines at Alta and Big Cottonwood Canyon. While there, a cave-in occurred which cut his head, broke his shoulder and hand.

In Scotland, children start school at the age of 4. My father was playing in the yard, where it extended to the broad banks of the River Clyde. He fell into this stream at the age of 4. The men who happened by and saved his life turned out to be two Mormon Missionaries. They converted the family to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My grandfather was President of the branch until he left for America.

Mary Rogers Loury Montgomery (grandmother) was a persistant worker. No task that would add to their provisions was ignored. She would go into the fields with other women and glean the wheat which was used for bread and cereal. Along with her many trials in raising her family, her heart was always sad for her parents she had left in Scotland who refused to answer any of her letters. They told her if she joined the LDS Church, they would disown her. As long as she lived, she

still wrote to them. She never received any word from any of her family from the time she left Scotland until the time of her death.

Grandmother had a beautiful singing voice and was asked to take part in many entertainments as well as in Church groups. She was a faithful worker in the Church and was the first Lady Sunday School teacher in Heber. She was born 25 April 1830 at Cregmark, Ayrshire County, Scotland. She immigrated to Utah in 1862, making her home in Heber City where she died 29 July 1904. She was loved and respected by her family and a host of friends.

My grandparents children were:

1. Agnes--born 29 March 1847--at Dalry Ayrshire, Scotland. Married John Turner.
2. Sarah--born 9 June 1849--at Prvain or Yrvain Ayrshire, Scotland. Married a Mr. Shelton later Sam Wing.
3. Mary--born 1 June 1851--at Anock Loga Ayrshire, Scotland. Married William Farman.
4. Robert--born 13 September, 1855--at Cragmark Ayrshire, Scotland. Married Mary Elizabeth Lambert.
5. Livingston--born 19 March 1858--Dalmelington on the water of Doon, Scotland. Married Millie Clegg.
6. Elizabeth--born 4 June 1859--at Balicleve Renfershire, Scotland. Married William Brit.
7. Christena--born 30 March 1861--at Jonston Renfershire, Scotland. Married Joseph Smithers.
8. Josephena--born 4 April 1865 at Heber City, Utah (Father James Booth) Married James Rasband.
9. John L.--born 30 Aug. 1868--at Heber City, Utah (Father John Horrocks) Married Nillie Moulton.
10. Alexander--born Scotland and died there before they left Scotland.

My father married Sarah Young at the age of twenty. They had no children. Her health was bad and on 2 February 1882 she died and was buried in Heber, Utah. For many years my father freighted for Dan Lambert's Lumber Mill in Kamas. He met Dan's sister Elizabeth. They fell in love and were married on 7 October, 1885 in the Logan Temple.

The twelve children born to them were:

1. Pearl Montgomery --born 7 July 1886 at Heber, Utah. She died at twelve years of age in 1898.
2. Robert Lambert Montgomery--born 19 Dec. 1887 at Heber, Utah. He died at the age of two months in February 1888.
3. Oliver Montgomery--born 2 January 1889 at Heber, Utah. Married Della Gibson. She died and he later married Lucy Wall.
4. Hazel Montgomery--born 28 May 1891 at Heber, Utah Married Lyman North.
5. Parley Montgomery--born 22 July 1893 at Heber, Utah. Married Janna Schaart.
6. Forest Montgomery--born 19 April 1895 at Heber, Utah. Married Helen Rose.
7. Shield Montgomery--born 19 April 1897 at Heber, Utah. Married Ila Sulser.
8. Ruby Montgomery--born 26 Dec 1898 at Heber, Utah. Married Wallace Provost.
9. Dan Montgomery--born 20 Sept. 1900 at Heber, Utah. Died at eleven months in August 1901.
10. LaPreal Montgomery--born 24 August 1902 at Heber, Utah. Married Joseph Johnson.
11. Cebert Montgomery--born 16 February 1904 at Heber, Utah. Married Veda North.
12. Earl Montgomery--born 10 Nov. 1905 at Heber, Utah. Married Atha Johnson.

It seemed only natural for those who knew my mother to love her. Her type of beauty could best be described as wholesome, a tall plump girl with dark blue eyes, fair skin and a lot of black wavy hair that fell to her knees when unpinned. Mother was the daughter of John and Lenna Hancena Larson Lambert. She was born in Kamas, Utah 14 June 1865. After her marriage, she moved to Heber, Utah. She was very active in the Church and in civic work, but her family was her greatest interest. She was a kind and devoted wife and mother. One of their close friends, Joseph Hatch once told her he wished he was an artist so he could paint her picture with her children.

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My father was also a very fine looking man with black hair and black eyes. He was a big man and was always in good health until he was quite old. Although his schooling was meager, he was keenly intelligent and loved to read. He had a ready wit and a very good sense of humor. Both friends and strangers traveling through always enjoyed his friendly hospitality. When illness or death occurred in the community, his services were fully given. If a widow needed a house built he offered his time and helped build it. His friends could be counted by the score. All who knew him enjoyed his cheerful disposition and wonderful personality.

Life for my father held lots of joy because of his habit of painting the clouds with sunshine. There came one cloud of sorrow that remained with him until his death. When my mother, who had been his joy and inspiration became ill and died. She died 19 May 1908. I shall never forget the heartache and sadness on that beautiful May morning when my mother left us. Neither will I forget the tender kindness my father showed to us children. The courage he had in the responsibility of being both father and mother to a family of children who ranged from eighteen months to eighteen years. My father never married again for he felt his duty came to us children first. He had a wonderful memory, a good singing voice, loved to play his violin. I still have his violin which was made in the year 1703.

My fathers health failed and in May 1925 he suffered a paralytic stroke which made him helpless. With the help of my husband, and children and my brothers Cebert and Earl, we cared for him until his death 26 January 1930. He died at my home in Midway, Utah. He never complained. He had one half brother John Montgomery that was dear to him. Also one sister Josephena M. Rasband who died in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1958.

As our gospel teaches us that many are called but few are chosen, so in closing may I say that I feel both my father and mother were special spirits, that the Lord sent here to perform a mission. They literally did this in keeping that great commandment of multiplying the earth. I feel that they are now enjoying each other after their sad separation here on earth.

May we, their children, keep alive their memory by obeying the teachings that they taught us as their children.